

EUROPE.

IS IT PEACE OR WAR?

The Negotiations Drag--England's Vast Preparations--India's Expeditionary Forces--The Russians in Constantinople--Recuperation of the Turkish Army--Rumored League of Denmark, Prussia and Germany to Close the Baltic.

LONDON, April 29.—The Times has the following from its correspondent at St. Petersburg: "There is some truth in the rumors that Prince Bismarck has retired from the position of mediator, as the principle of a simultaneous withdrawal from Constantinople is accepted. He is also influenced by certain unofficial intimations that he does not cordially desire the success of negotiations. Russia is quite ready to continue negotiations directly, and hopes Lord Salisbury will abandon his purely negative position, but it is known how England intends to act. Some very well informed people here are convinced that direct negotiations can hardly fail to be successful, if both sides desire an amicable arrangement. I am assured that is the case with Russia, who is ready to accept any arrangement securing the amelioration of the present condition of the Christians, and a moderate compensation."

The correspondent recites the modification of the San Stefano treaty, to which Russia is willing to submit. It is stated that the Russian government has received orders to have everything in readiness for immediate embarkation.

The Times' correspondent at Vienna says that all sides are willing to continue negotiations, although there is some momentary ill humor concerning the mutual withdrawal from Constantinople. This is caused by questions of detail, and not a change of mind, on the part of Great Britain, who has arrived at an understanding on the point are not considered abandoned.

The Austrian and Hungarian ministers are in conference at Vienna. It is stated that Count Andrássy is pressing for an immediate compromise of the long pending controversies between the two States, because the condition of the foreign affairs of Austria is such that it is impossible to continue the policy which intestine quarrels would hinder.

General Sir Alfred Hastings has been ordered to be in command of the second army corps, which is to be sent to the coast of the Adriatic, in the course of the coming week, including a portion of the first army.

Thousands of the Martin Henri rifles are still being removed from the racks, in the tower of London, presumably for the equipment of the reserve.

There is great activity at Portsmouth in preparing fittings for the conversion of merchant ships into armed cruisers. A certain manufacturing firm has been ordered to build a new ship, or more than one hundred were torpedo boats, for the protection of ships from the attacks of fish torpedoes. All the new ships are to be armed with torpedoes.

Immense quantities of shells and shells are being issued from Woolwich Arsenal in all directions.

The first Indian expeditionary force will embark for Bombay. The first division will leave to-day, consisting of two batteries of the Royal Artillery, the thirteenth and thirty-first regiments, Second Gurkha Rifles, and companies of Sappers and Miners. The second will embark as soon as possible. It will consist of the Ninth Cavalry, first Bombay Lancers, ninth and twenty-second Gurkha Rifles, and companies of Sappers and Miners.

Yesterday, which was looked forward to in Constantinople with apprehension, as a consequence of the Russian army entering the city under the pretext of hearing Mass in the Greek churches, passed quietly. Only a small number of the Russians came in Saturday night, the most of whom spent the night in coffee houses. About fifty attended the church.

The question of the evacuation of the fortresses continues. The cause of the difficulty and irritation, the Russians say, is the retirement of their army and the British fleet from the neighborhood of Constantinople, which would be easily arranged but for the Turkish obstinacy on this point, which destroys the Conference. The time for the evacuation was left indefinite by the terms of the treaty of San Stefano. Lord Salisbury and the Russian plenipotentiaries sent off simultaneously to Fazi Pasha at Shumla, and Ahmed Kiazim at Varna, to demand the surrender of these places, and the answer in both cases was that no orders to quit had been received from the Seraskier, but such orders were issued, and the troops were moved until transports came. Some threats were then used. Finally the Russians begged permission to occupy the outer forts, and the British lines and towns to the Turks. They declined, and the Russians pressed the point. "Let us talk no more about this foolishness," was Ahmed Kiazim's last answer.

There are forty-five full battalions between Shumla and Varna, with four battalions of artillery. The evacuation of Batoum is rendered difficult through the opposition of the population. They refuse to submit to Russian rule, and offer to pay a ransom and return to Turkey. Petitions to this effect were received at the Porte. The Turks have twenty-four battalions and eight batteries about Batoum; between Trebizond and Ezeroun, seven battalions, forty-five between Ezeroun and Mossi; in Thessaly, Epirus and Salonica, sixty battalions. At Gallipoli there are thirty battalions, and about Constantinople, exclusive of those at Scutari, one hundred and twenty battalions, consisting of about 90,000 men. There is a great and acknowledged lack of competent officers, but the crew of the fleet, the health, spirits, and discipline, is good. The troops have been moved recently, so as to move daily over the land side of the straits of the upper Bosphorus.

The Grand Duke Nicholas and General Skobelev, senior, Gorko, and Nepokitchitzky, the latter the Grand Duke's chief of staff, leave for Odessa, Tuesday.

The tension in Roumania is greatly relieved by the circular of M. Bratianu, the Roumanian minister and president of the assembly, cautioning them against the assumption that the military convention with Russia has expired, enjoining courtesy and forbearance toward the Russians and calmness and firmness in the discharge of their duties until the questions at issue have been submitted to the judgment of Europe.

The Times correspondent says if this document had been promulgated when Bessarabia and other questions were first broached, it might have presented an enormous amount of violent and exceedingly impolitic agitation. The negotiations between the English commissioners and the Insurgents for a cessation of hostilities in Thessaly continue.

M. Trepoft, whom the woman Vera Sassulitch some time since attempted to assassinate, has been collected of his functions as prefect of St Petersburg and of the police.

A rumor comes from Vienna that Russia is about to meet to the Baltic, and is commissioning to negotiate a league between Denmark, Prussia and Germany, for closing the Baltic. This rumor is probably based on a statement in the North German Gazette of Saturday, that it despatch of the British fleet to the Baltic, and would render the situation unacceptably more complicated.

Forty-Fifth Congress. WASHINGTON, April 29.—The Committee on Coins, Weights and Measures held a delegation from Rock Island, Ill., in behalf of a branch mint at that place. Representative Gibson, of Louisiana, took his seat as the successor of Representative Darrell. Gen. Gibson was placed on the sub-committee, having been authorized to constitute any expert or assayer of any mint or assay office an Assistant Treasurer of the United States, to receive gold coin and bullion on deposit for purposes provided for in section 254 of the revised statutes.

SENATE.—During the morning hour Mr. Cannon, of Florida, called up the bill for the relief of the estate of the late John A. Andrew, and he is, hereby authorized to constitute any expert or assayer of any mint or assay office an Assistant Treasurer of the United States, to receive gold coin and bullion on deposit for purposes provided for in section 254 of the revised statutes.

THE HOMESTEAD.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

No. 566.—October Term, 1877.

Leonidas C. Edwards, Plaintiff in Error, vs. Archibald Kearny, Defendant.

Mr. Justice SWAYNE delivered the opinion of the Court.

The constitution of North Carolina was adopted on the 20th of April in that year. Sections 1 and 2 of article X. declare that personal property of any resident of the state, of the value of five hundred dollars, to be selected by the owner, shall be exempt from sale under execution or other final process issued for the collection of any debt; and that every homestead and the buildings used therewith, not exceeding in value one thousand dollars, to be selected by the owner, or in lieu thereof, at the option of the owner, any lot in a city, town or village, with the buildings used thereon, owned and occupied by any resident of the state, and not exceeding in value one thousand dollars, shall be exempt in like manner from sale for the collection of any debt under final process.

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THE HOMESTEAD.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

No. 566.—October Term, 1877.

Leonidas C. Edwards, Plaintiff in Error, vs. Archibald Kearny, Defendant.

Mr. Justice SWAYNE delivered the opinion of the Court.

The constitution of North Carolina was adopted on the 20th of April in that year. Sections 1 and 2 of article X. declare that personal property of any resident of the state, of the value of five hundred dollars, to be selected by the owner, shall be exempt from sale under execution or other final process issued for the collection of any debt; and that every homestead and the buildings used therewith, not exceeding in value one thousand dollars, to be selected by the owner, or in lieu thereof, at the option of the owner, any lot in a city, town or village, with the buildings used thereon, owned and occupied by any resident of the state, and not exceeding in value one thousand dollars, shall be exempt in like manner from sale for the collection of any debt under final process.

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